

Paul et al. demonstrated that injections of a Sox9-expressing adenoviral vector directly into the nucleus pulposus in a rabbit model of disc degeneration resulted in the maintenance of the chondrocytic appearance of the disc space.

It is respectfully submitted that the observation made by Paul et al. provides further support for the enablement of the methods of regeneration of bone or cartilage using a Sox-9 DNA molecule, as presently claimed. Applicants reassert that those skilled in the art would be able to practice the claimed methods without undue experimentation.

It is firmly believed that the subject application is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. S. DiGiglio'.

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FSD/XZ:ab

Encl.: Exhibit 1